

Message

From: Cogliano, Vincent [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=51F2736376AC4D32BAD2FE7CFEF2886B-COGLIANO, VINCENT]
Sent: 10/23/2018 9:31:30 PM
To: Collins, Kevin W. [Collins.Kevin@epa.gov]; Lange, Kristen [lange.kristen@epa.gov]
CC: Grifo, Francesca [Grifo.Francesca@epa.gov]
BCC: Hawkins, CherylA [Hawkins.CherylA@epa.gov]
Subject: OIG 2016-0061

Hello Kevin and Kristen,

On December 19, 2018, [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] referred OIG Hotline complain 2016-0061 to Francesca Grifo. The complaint alleges that managers in [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] were disregarding an employee's scientific opinion in his review of [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)].

Francesca was later contacted by the same [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] employee's managers, requesting that she discuss with them his complaints in a letter he sent to the Administrator. The letter again alleged that his scientific opinion was being disregarded in his review of [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]. The managers wanted to discuss how they were approaching the situation to ensure they were not violating EPA's scientific integrity policy.

For both the OIG hotline complaint referred to Francesca and the letter sent to the Administrator, the issue appears to be a case of differing scientific opinion. In the discussion with the [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] managers, they described the process in [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] for the review of [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]. In cases where there are disagreements between reviewers, a third (or more) scientists are asked to review the materials and provide their assessment. All of the reviews by all the scientists are documented but the consensus view is followed. Since reviewers are allowed to express and document their opinions, we do not believe that [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] employee's scientific opinion is being suppressed, but instead his opinion differs from the consensus of the other reviewers.

Francesca recently met with the Deputy Scientific Integrity Official for [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] to discuss this allegation and others involving [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] and apprise [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] of the issue.

The Scientific Integrity Program now considers the allegation from OIG Hotline 2016-0061 closed.

Thank you,
Vincent Cogliano

Office of the Science Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (8105R)
Washington DC 20460

tel 202-564-4313